

Abstract

Most psychiatric patients do not behave aggressively, but they very often become victims of aggressive behaviour. However, in the practical part of this work, we focused on the phenomenon of aggressive behaviour in psychotic patients, and we address victimization of psychotic patients in the theoretical part because it is one of the most important predictors of aggressive behaviour not only in psychiatric patients but also in the general population. In the literature, we encounter three basic immediate causes of aggressive behaviour - psychotic, impulsive, and predatory (planned) - which we observed in hospital conditions. Specifically, we focused on impulsive behaviour in aggressive patients, given that it is assumed that psychotic patients have difficulties in this area.

The aim of this study was to examine the immediate causes of aggressive behaviour and provide data from the Czech Republic on their prevalence. Another goal was to determine whether the factor structure in our work is consistent with the three hypothesized factors described by Nolan et al. Another goal was to explore impulsive behaviour in psychotic patients in light of the reported reduced impulse control and emotional dysregulation associated with the emergence of aggressive behaviour in psychotic patients. The study aimed to examine the behavioural inhibitory response to neutral and emotional stimuli using the Emotional Stop-signal task method.

The results of our study revealed the most common occurrence of psychotically motivated aggression (76.71%), followed by impulsive aggression (22.32%), and only rare occurrences of planned (predatory) aggression (0.98%). In the factor analysis, we identified five factors explaining aggressive behaviour in psychotic patients compared to the three factors described by Nolan et al. Regarding impulsivity in psychotic patients, we confirmed that aggressive behaviour is more related to impaired response inhibition than to the disease itself, but also that psychotic symptoms may increase impulsive behaviour in schizophrenia. Aggressive patients tend to react more intensely to angry faces than neutral ones, which predisposes them to a more impulsive response.

Aggressive behaviour in psychotic patients is a heterogeneous phenomenon involving multiple variables that contribute to its emergence. The disease itself only partially increases the risk of violent behaviour, and predictors of violent behaviour are similar to those of aggressive behaviour in the general population.

Keywords: aggression, causes of aggressive behaviour, impulsivity, psychosis, planning, risk factors, emotional stop-signal task, response inhibition, emotional regulation.